

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been examined. Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and claims 5, 6, and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Also, the Examiner has allowed claims 1-4.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants submit that the amendments to claim 5 overcome the rejection.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over EP 0 458 169 A2 to Kasahara (“Kasahara”)

Claims 5, 6, and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kasahara. Since claim 5 contains features that are similar to the features of allowable claim 7, Applicants submit that claim 5 is patentable for at least this reason. Also, since claims 6 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of these claims is moot.

III. Objection to claim 7

The Examiner has objected to claim 7 but acknowledges that it contains allowable subject matter. Since claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of the claim is moot.

IV. Conclusion

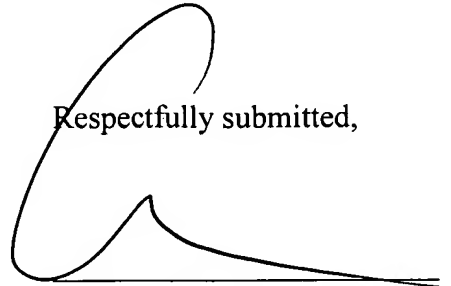
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/799,891

Attorney Docket No. Q80081

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Grant K. Rowan', written over a horizontal line.

Grant K. Rowan
Registration No. 41,278

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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